



## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

### 24-HOUR REPORT

20 AUGUST 2020

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#### (U) CALIFORNIA

##### **(U) Santa Barbara – More Than 3,000 Pounds of Methamphetamine Seized from Boat Off Coast**

(U) Santa Barbara County authorities arrested 33 people in the largest drug bust in the county's history after intercepting a boat carrying 3,164-pounds of methamphetamine early Wednesday morning. The boat was intercepted around 3 AM off the coast of Arroyo Quemada Beach north of Goleta. Detectives found the 40-foot panga boat originated from Mexico and was equipped with three 300-horsepower engines.

SOURCE: 19 August 2020, [Ventura County Star](#)

##### **(U) Big Sur – Monterey County Deputies Arrest Arson Suspect in 2,500-Acre Big Sur Fire**

(U) Ivan Geronimo Gomez, 30, was arrested in connection with the 2,500-acre Dolan Fire near Lucia and Big Sur. Gomez also faces charges for throwing something at a vehicle intending to cause great bodily injury and illegally growing marijuana. It is unclear what evidence was used to link Gomez to the fire and whether all three charges stem from the same alleged incident. California State Parks personnel detained Gomez at the John Little State Natural Reserve, near the fire's origin in Dolan Canyon. The Dolan Fire started at about 8:15 p.m. Tuesday in the Los Padres National Forest, about 10-miles south of Big Sur, according to the US Forest Service.

SOURCE: 19 August 2020, [The Californian](#)

#### (U) NATIONAL

##### **(U) Colorado – Masked Suspects in Dark Hoodies Started a Fire That Killed Five Family Members**

(U) Denver – Three people in dark hoodies and full-face masks set a two-story house ablaze in Denver on 5 August and fled the area in a four-door dark sedan. The blaze quickly spread throughout the home, killing two children and three adults. Three others survived after jumping from the second floor. The five killed were all members of one Senegalese family. Authorities determined early on that the fire was intentionally set. Investigators are looking into the incident as a possible hate crime.

SOURCE: 20 August 2020, [CNN](#)

##### **(U) District of Columbia – United States Will Not Seek Death Penalty for ISIS Members**

(U) Washington DC – The US has informed the UK that it will not seek the death penalty for two high-profile ISIS members in an effort to convince Britain to provide critical evidence that can be used to prosecute the operatives in US courts. The two ISIS members are believed to be responsible for several high-profile executions of hostages, some of which they videotaped. The two men were part of an ISIS execution cell that has been accused by the State Department of holding captive and beheading approximately two dozen hostages, including an American journalist and an American aid worker. The two men were captured in Syria in 2018.

SOURCE: 19 August 2020, [CNN](#)

##### **(U) Indiana – Prosecutors Recommend 10-Year Prison Sentence for Woman who Financed Terrorism**

(U) Elkhart – Samantha Elhassani, who pleaded guilty to one count of financing terrorism, is expected to

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be sentenced 27 August. Elhassani has been in federal custody since July 2018, when a military cargo transport plane brought her and her children to Gary from Syria. Elhassani pleaded guilty in November and confirmed that when her husband, Moussa Elhassani, and his brother intended to join ISIS, she made three trips to Hong Kong between November 2014 and August 2015 transporting more than \$30,000 in cash, gold, and precious stones. Those assets were intended to be used by ISIS.

SOURCE: 19 August 2020, [Chicago Tribune](#)

### **(U) INTERNATIONAL**

#### **(U) Nigeria – Armed ISIS Fighters Take Hundreds Hostage in Nigeria's Borno State**

(U) Kukawa – Armed fighters from the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) group, a splinter group of Boko Haram, have taken hundreds of hostages in a northeast Nigerian town where residents had only just returned after fleeing their homes. ISWAP overran the town of Kukawa in Borno state late on Tuesday, and seized residents who had returned to the town in a government operation on 2 August, after spending nearly two years in displacement camps. The terrorists attacked the town in 22 trucks around 4:00 PM local and engaged soldiers guarding the town in a fierce battle.

SOURCE: 19 August 2020, [Al Jazeera](#)

#### **(U) United Kingdom – Brother of 2017 Manchester Suicide Bomber Jailed For at Least 55 Years**

(U) London – Hashem Abedi, 23, who helped his elder brother carry out a suicide bomb attack at the end of an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester three-years ago which killed 22 people was jailed for at least 55-years on Thursday. Abedi was found guilty in March of murder for encouraging and helping his brother Salman to blow himself up at the Manchester Arena as parents arrived to collect their children at the end of a May 2017 show. Among the dead were seven children, the youngest aged just eight, while 237 people were injured. The attack was the deadliest in Britain since the 2005 London transport suicide bombings which killed 52 people.

SOURCE: 20 August 2020, [Reuters](#)

#### **(U) United Kingdom – Convicted Terrorist's Sister Sentenced for Keeping Attack Plan Secret**

(U) London – Sneha Chowdhury, 26, of Luton kept secret her brother's plot to kill people in a terrorist attack and was sentenced on 18 August after a six-and-a-half-month covert investigation. Mohuissunnath Chowdhury, 29, who was sentenced to life imprisonment last month for planning to carry out a terrorist attack, was recorded at home telling his sister that he was "doing another attack", and asking her for help to practice stabbing people – alarming information which she did not report to police.

SOURCE: 19 August 2020, [Homeland Security Today](#)

### **(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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